

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 NRC-05 ERDA-05

OMB-01 AID-05 OES-03 /109 W
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R 291140Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 317

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DEWHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: INDO/PAK RELATIONS: NUCLEAR PROPOSALS AND COUNTERPROPOSALS

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 4651 (NOTAL)

B. ISLAMABAD 4672 (NOTAL)

C. NEW DELHI 6833 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MFA OFFICIAL GAVE US FURTHER DETAILS OF PAK

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VERSION OF DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUE IN

COURSE RECENT INDO/PAK TALKS. GOP STILL CONSIDERING INDIAN BILATERAL DECLARATION PROPOSAL AND IS PLANNING TO EXPLORE WITH SMALLER SOUTH ASIAN GOVERNMENTS POSSIBILITY OF WINNING THEIR SUPPORT FOR ITS OWN MULTILATERAL DECLARATION APPROACH. OFFICIAL CLAIMS KEWAL SINGH SAID GOI WOULD BE WILLING CONSIDER PAK PROPOSAL IF OTHER REGIONAL COUNTRIES BACKED IT. MFA AND PAK PRESS HAVE REMAINED SILENT ON INDIAN PROPOSAL, AND GOP PROPOSAL TOO HAS FADED AT LEAST TEMPORARILY FROM VIEW AFTER BRIEF FLURRY. END SUMMARY.

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) HAYAT MEHDI MAY 28 GAVE POL COUNSELOR FURTHER DETAILS OF GOP VERSION OF DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUE IN COURSE MAY 15-20 INDO/PAK TALKS. MEHDI ACCOUNT SUPPLEMENTS FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI'S BRIEFING OF THE AMBASSADOR (REF A). NOT SURPRISINGLY, IT PUTS THE DISCUSSION IN A SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FOCUS FROM THAT IN THE REPORT PASSED TO EMBASSY NEW DELHI BY MEHDI'S GOI OPPOSITE NUMBER, ASHOK CHIB (REF C). MEHDI ALSO DISCUSSED FURTHER MOVES THE PAKS MIGHT MAKE IN THE WAKE OF THE DISCUSSION.

2. ACCORDING TO MEHDI, PAKS HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE IN RAISING NUCLEAR DECLARATION ISSUE. THEY TOOK LINE THAT SINCE GOI AND GOP SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE (SANFZ) RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY 29TH UNGA LAST NOVEMBER WERE EACH NOT FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER SIE, NEW APPROACH WAS DESIRABLE. THEY HAD THEN UNVEILED THEIR MULTILATERAL DECLARATION PROPOSAL (REF A).

3. MEHDI STATED THAT INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH REACTED UNFAVORABLY. AS EMBJGSY NEW DELHI HAS REPORTED, SINGH SAID THAT GOI HAD VOLUNTARILY DECLARED UNILATERALLY THAT IT WOULD NOT USE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR NON-PEACEFUL PURPOSES. WHEN PAKS RAISED ISSUE OF COMMITMENT OF FUTURE INDIAN GOVERNMENTS TO THIS POSITION, SINGH MAINTAINED, ACCORDING TO MEHDI, THAT IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY THAT ANY FUTURE REGIME WOULD OPT OUT. SINGH ADDED THAT SINCE INDIA WAS THE ONLY
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COUNTRY IN THE AREA WHICH WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED SELF-DENYING DECLARATION, THE IDEA OF SUCH DECLARATION BEING MADE ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS WAS NOT APT. NOR, ACCORDING TO SINGH, WERE THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE AREA DISSATISFIED, AS PAKISTAN WAS, WITH THE INDIAN UNILATERAL DECLARATION.

4. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT KEWAL SINGH MADE HIS

BILATERAL DECLARATION PROPOSAL. THE PAKS SAID THEY WOULD CONSIDER IT, BUT THEY ALSO QUESTIONED THE INDIAN ARGUMENTATION. THEY MAINTAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THE SMALLER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION HAVE NOT BEEN AS OUTSPOKEN AS PAKISTAN IN CALLING FOR FURTHER INDIAN ASSURANCES, THESE TOO ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED. THEY

ASKED KEWAL SINGH WHAT THE GOI'S REACTION WOULD BE IF OTHER REGIONAL COUNTRIES JOINED WITH PAKISTAN IN THE MULTILATERAL DECLARATION INITIATIVE. MEHDI SAID THAT SINGH HAD SAID INDIA WOULD BE "WILLING TO CONSIDER" THE ISSUE.

5. THERE MATTERS SEEM TO STAND. MEHDI SAID THAT THE NEXT PAK STEP IN MOVING FORWARD ON ITS OWN PROPOSAL WILL BE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF AJOINT INITIATIVE WITH THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES. HENOTED THAT HE HAD NOT YET CONSULTED WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ON HOW TO GO ABOUT THIS, HOWEVER. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONFIDENCE THAT THERE WOULD BE A FAVORABLE RESPONSE -- HE EVIDENTLY HAD SRI LANK AND NEPAL IN MIND. HE DIFFERED WITH THE POL COUNSELOR'S SUGGESTION THAT THE OTHER SOUTH ASIAN GOVERNMENTS MIGHT NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN WHAT MIGHT SEEM TO THEM A MOVE ANTAGONISTIC TO INDIA. HE CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THEM TO LOOK AT IT THAT WAY.

6. ASKED ABOUT THE TIME FRAME FOR ACTION ON THE TWO PROPOSED DECLARATIONS, MEHDI SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY THE TIMING OF THE NEXT UNGA. HE RECALLED THAT THE PAK SANFZ RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE LAST SESSION HAD REQUESTED THE SYG TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL STATES TO CONSULT ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ZTGE AND TO REPORT ON THE SUBJECT TO THE 30TH GA. HE MAINTAINED THAT THE PROPOSED MULTILATERAL STATEMENT REPRESENTS A "WAY OUT" FOR THE GOI, WHICH HAS OPPOSED THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE UN SYG IN THE SANFZ ISSUE.

7. MFA HAS SO FAR SAID NOTHING PUBLICLY ON INDIAN PROPOSAL, AND AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, IT HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN PRESS HERE. IF LEAKS TO INDIAN PRESS MENTIONED IN REF C HAVE BEEN NOTICED AT ALL, THEY HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY IGNORED. FOR THAT MATTER, LITTLE HAS BEEN MENTIONED PUBLICLY OF PAK MULTILATERAL NUCLEAR DECLARATION AFTER BRIEF FLURRY FOLLOWING RETURN OF GOP DELEGATION FROM INDIA LAST WEEK.
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